CANUCKS MAKE IT EVEN HALF DOZEN, PG9

Celebrity Buzz

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pg 18

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VANCOUVER • THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010 metronews.ca

Olympian's family offered free place

Americans receive multiple invites after scam

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

GREG DOWNS
for Metro Vancouver

Thanks to an outpouring of support from the local community, the family of U.S. Olympic bobsledder Steve Mesler will have free accommodation in Whistler after they were scammed $8,000 trying to rent a duplex to watch their son compete.

Since Metro Vancouver first broke the story on Tuesday, Steve Mesler said his family, especially his mom, has been overwhelmed by people's reaction.

"My parents had no less than 12 or 15 emails and Facebook messages from people offering up their places, whether it's a room, the whole house ... people just saying we don't have much room but if we can help, great."

Mesler added he doesn't believe this story casts a negative shadow on the Games or Canadians.

"One rotten apple doesn't spoil the bunch," the three-time Olympian said yesterday. "I don't know how many more places in the world would have this many people step up and let people in ... it's showing how great the people of Vancouver, Whistler and Canada are."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Montebello chalet homes in Whistler where the Mesler family has been offered free accommodation.

Mesler's parents, who live in Buffalo and are coming as part of a group of 10, have accepted invitations from two families to stay in the Whistler area for free.

The Moore family, who own Burnaby-based Watson Gloves, have a townhouse within walking distance of the Whistler Sliding Centre.

"I felt terrible for the family who were going to come to see their son but now didn't have a place to stay," said Michele Moore. "So I sent (Steve Mesler) an email saying if you guys are still stuck and you need a place to stay we have a townhouse in Whistler that we would be happy to lend you so you can see your son during the Olympics."

Mesler said the scam has not become a distraction for him and that the media coverage and support will help others who have been victimized.

"I know my parents aren't the only ones this has happened to, now all of a sudden it's shed a light on Jason Hartlen (name used by the scammer) who hopefully now, because of this attention, it might be easier to catch him."

Mesler said he heard from a couple who told him they also lost $2,500 to a person by that same name.

Warning issued

- Since Metro reported on the scam, the Province of B.C. has issued a warning to Olympic visitors about property rental fraud. See it at metronews.ca.

Funds being raised for injured man

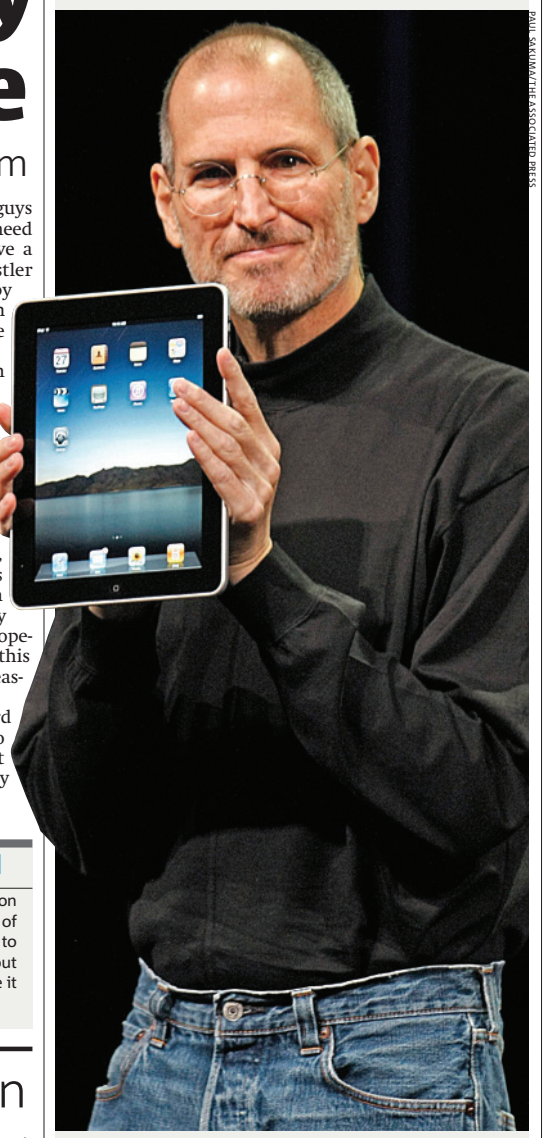
POLICE INCIDENT A fundraiser is being set up for a Vancouver man injured when police knocked on the wrong door during an arrest.

Yao Wei Wu says he hasn't been able to work since the incident on Jan. 12.

Tomorrow, Police Chief Jim Chu and Police Complaint Comm. Stan Lowe will be at SUCCESS, a charity that helps newcomers to Canada adjust, to suggest what people should do if they are in a police incident.

METRO VANCOUVER

iPad Apple's newest seed



PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple CEO Steve Jobs shows off the new iPad during an Apple event in San Francisco yesterday. The unveiling ended months of rumours, intrigue and speculation about the one-button, keyboard-free mobile computing device billed as a cross between a laptop and a smartphone. Story, page 7

Man dead after being shot while driving

HOMICIDE A man died following a brazen midday shooting yesterday near a busy transportation hub in Vancouver.

The man, who police said is in his early 20s, was driving in the 1500 block of East 10th Avenue at 1:06 p.m. when he was shot. His car collided with a white van and came to a halt.

He was rushed to hospital, but died shortly thereafter.

The shooting occurred near the busy Broadway SkyTrain Station.

A school in the area was locked down for a short period of time.

METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

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Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

- **Today — Lueders driving for gold, page 12**

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Local

Whistler sees record snowfall

Whistler Blackcomb has seen a record 9.9 metres (32.5 feet) of snow this season, according to VANOC. That's great news for Games organizers struggling to deal with a lack of snow on Cypress Mountain, home of freestyle skiing and snowboarding. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

ROAD CLOSURES The next phase of Olympic road closures in downtown Vancouver begins tomorrow. Expo and Pacific boulevards, which snake around GM Place and B.C. Place — both of which are Olympic venues — will be shut to traffic. The goal is to reduce traffic by 20 per cent.

WATER The water coming out of Metro Vancouver taps has a blue tinge now because the new Seymour Capilano filtration plant is removing more impurities from the reservoirs. The blue water is lower in turbidity.

ARREST One of the Lower Mainland's top 10 most-wanted suspects for car thefts has been arrested in Surrey. Jamie Crosson, 19, was bitten by a police dog during his arrest yesterday, which came a day after police released his mugshot to the public.

GROW-OP A Burnaby couple is facing drug charges after RCMP found a sophisticated grow-op in the home in which they were raising their three children. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Hundreds turn out at Ottawa funeral for Mountie killed in Haiti quake at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

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Extra	5, 17, 28, 55

These results are not official.

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Council aims to put stop to Red Tent homeless campaign

OPPOSITION Handing out 500 red tents to the homeless isn't what the city meant when it invited residents to "paint the town red" in support of our Olympic athletes.

Council said yesterday it's going to try to nip the Red Tent Campaign in the bud and stop Pivot Legal Society and the Citywide Housing Coalition from handing out the tents.

"We're not supportive (of the campaign)," said Coun. Kerry Jang. "We're worried about the health and safety of the homeless."

Jang said council is reviewing city bylaws regarding tent cities in light of a 2009 B.C. Supreme Court ruling that said homeless people have the right to erect a temporary shelter on city property if homeless shelters are full.

The red tents would act as symbols on the street, drawing people's attention to the country's homelessness crisis during the Olympics.

Jang said he and Mayor Gregor Robertson agree with Pivot that a federal housing strategy is needed, but that this isn't the way to get it. KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

An artist's rendering of the inside of Canada's Olympic Pavilion.

Olympic Pavilion on track, MP says

GAMES Canada's Olympic Pavilion is on schedule and on budget, Conservative MP James Moore said yesterday during a sneak peek at the $10-million structure.

A planned media tour of the pavilion was scrapped yesterday, but reporters were invited to photograph and film the tent's exterior from across a parking lot.

The two-storey white tent, marked with a Canadian flag and Canada's brand, will be one of the attractions at Vancouver's Georgia Street LiveCity site.

Moore said the pavilion will provide entertainment and interactive activities for visitors of all ages. Displays will highlight Canada's sport history and a touch-screen avatar will take people through a downhill event. JEFF HODSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Reviving Chinatown

Projects meant to lure visitors, investment

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

The city is giving Chinatown a facelift in an effort to brighten the community for Olympic visitors and encourage new investment and activity in one of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhoods.

Improvement projects include painting lively murals, replacing old awnings, renovating the facades of empty storefronts and heritage buildings, and installing a five-storey neon sign at Keefer and Columbia Streets.

One hundred red lanterns are also being put up in celebration of the Lunar New Year, which will be marked with a parade on Feb. 14.

"We want to make sure Chinatown draws its share of attention from visitors," said Mayor Gregor Robertson.

UNESCO

- City council is trying to get Chinatown designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"We've been working closely with the community to address (its) needs and bring economic prosperity back to this historic part of our city."

The city and the Chinatown Business Improvement Association also announced they're holding a second window display contest, where students from Langara College's Design Formulation program create displays for five shops that celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The public can vote for their favourite design until Feb. 5. For more information on the contest visit vancouver-chinatown.com.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson, in Chinatown yesterday, holds one of 100 red lanterns going up around the neighbourhood for the Lunar New Year.

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Yogathon for Haiti
Yogis and yoginis can do their part to help the earthquake survivors in Haiti by joining an RCMP-hosted yogathon at the Richmond Centre Mall on Saturday. The hour-long classes start at 8 a.m. and run until 6 p.m., with a minimum drop-in donation of $10. All the money will go to the Red Cross. METRO VANCOUVER

New Westminster to host first rail mall

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

Canada's first rail mall is set to open at New Westminster SkyTrain station in 2011, developers said yesterday.

The 200,000-square-foot shopping mall overlooking the Fraser River is being built around the station, with the SkyTrain tracks going right through it. It'll include various retailers including Shoppers Drug Mart, Royal Bank, Safeway and a 10-screen cinema.

TransLink spokesperson Ken Hardie said the development plays right into the transit authority's ambition of mixing communi-

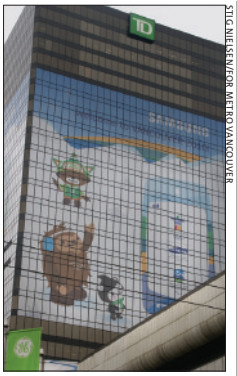
"This development is the way of the future."
Ken Hardie

ty centres and transit hubs.

"This development is the way of the future, where elevated traffic is fully integrated with shopping and a large residential complex," he said.

Mike Degelder, the developer of the mall and three residential towers already built by the site, projected 500 families will move into the complex.

New Westminster Mayor Wayne Wright described it as "the future of living in an urban environment."


STIG NIELSEN/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

An Olympic wrap envelops the TD building in downtown Vancouver yesterday.

Word on the street: What do you think of the Olympic building wraps going up in Vancouver?

TJ Sidhu
19, Vancouver

"They brighten the place up for the tourists, and I see a lot of people just standing around taking pictures, and that's pretty nice."

Tara Viola
19, Cloverdale

"I think it is very tacky and a little childish. They are like cartoon characters, and Quatchi isn't a very original name. It's good they are trying to promote to kids, but I think it makes us (Canadians) look a little foolish."

Yoo Sunae
26, Vancouver

"I think that the picture is pretty, and I think it is kind of cute. I like the characters of the Winter Games, especially the big one (Quatchi). This way people can easily get reminded of the Olympic colours."

News in brief

ARTIFACTS A blockbuster tour of 2,200-year-old Chinese artifacts — including the earliest known prototypes of the terracotta warriors — will be making a stop at Victoria's Royal B.C. Museum. The Warrior Emperor and China's Terracotta Army tour runs June until early 2012. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Senator Paul Yuzyk, 1913 – 1986

I know someone

Do you know someone who is an advocate for multiculturalism and for integrating cultural communities and new Canadians?

Nominate this person today for the Paul Yuzyk Award for Multiculturalism. The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2010.

$20,000 will go to an eligible, not-for-profit organization of the award winner's choice.

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Canada

4 **UFO spotted in Newfoundland to remain a mystery**
The reported sighting of a mysterious object in the sky over a community on the south coast of Newfoundland might remain just that — a mystery. The RCMP said there's no debris or any evidence that would allow the Mounties to investigate. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Haiti no boon to Harper

Prorogation overshadowing response: Poll

Haiti Crisis

Canada's swift response to the tragedy in Haiti hasn't boosted the federal government's popularity among voters, a new poll suggests.

Voters apparently remain unhappy about Prime Minister Stephen Harper's unpopular decision to prorogue Parliament and aren't swayed by the popular effort to help Haiti, said pollster Allan Gregg.

The latest Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests the Conservatives and Liberals are in a statistical dead heat, with 32 per cent supporting the Tories and 31 per cent for the Liberals.

The gap is well within the poll's margin of error.

"We're back into too-close-to-call territory," said Gregg.

The NDP were at 15 per cent, while the Bloc and the Green party each had 10 per cent.

Gregg said prorogation remains a dead weight for the Tories and works against the kind of popularity boost they might have looked for after a speedy and high-profile response to the earthquake.

"There continues to be a lingering anxiousness and animosity around the prorogation issue and, as a consequence, what you see is an unwillingness to concede that these guys are actually engaged and involved and working," he said.

But this animosity could fade, he added.

"There's no question that they're getting really solid grades for Haiti, so I think right now those two things are creating kind of a conflicting impulse, where nothing is changing but the sands have a potential to change."

Gregg said the data don't hold much good news for the Liberals and Michael Ignatieff, but reflect the simmering anger over prorogation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Families sending money back home to Haiti

CASH More and more Haitian-Canadians are sending money to family members in their quake-ravaged homeland. And they say the cash is making the difference between their relatives eating or starving.

Haitians were already heavily dependent on foreign money before the earthquake on Jan. 12. And relatives in Canada now say foreign cash is helping people buy food, water and other day-to-day necessities.

In Port-au-Prince, Haitians desperate for cash are braving long lineups at money transfer offices as the system gets up and running. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa **54 Haitian orphans arrive in town**

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Haitian orphaned children are carried by volunteers off an Air Transat plane that arrived at the Ottawa Airport yesterday carrying 54 Haitian orphans to be united with their new Canadian families.

No improvement in food safety: Union

LISTERIOSIS The government hasn't improved the food-safety system six months after the fatal listeriosis outbreak, food inspectors and a consumers group said yesterday.

Option Consommateurs, the country's largest consumer organization, and the union representing the inspectors said the government has yet to determine how many people it needs to ensure safe food and to figure out if a new inspection system actually works. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadians' love for Obama grows

POLL As U.S. President Barack Obama struggles to reconnect with recession-weary Americans, a new poll suggests his popularity is unrelenting in Canada.

Barack Obama

A new Canadian Press-Harris Decima survey says Obama would be elected with a majority north of the border regardless of whether he was leading the Liberals or the Tories.

The survey suggests that if Obama was Liberal leader, 48 per cent of Canadians would vote for the party. That would result in the Tories losing a large chunk of their base, with 30 per cent of them saying they'd vote Liberal if Obama had Michael Ignatieff's job.

If he was at the Conservative helm, 43 per cent of Canadians would cast their ballots for the Tories.

Doug Anderson, president of Harris/Decima, says he suspects the health-care debate that's been raging in the United States for months has likely cemented Canadian affection for Obama.

"That is something that is near and dear to Canadians, and he's out there fighting for it," Anderson said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INFANT The parents of a brain-damaged infant in Edmonton are getting more time to line up medical specialists who can review his condition.

FACEBOOK The federal privacy watchdog is looking into a new complaint about Facebook. The privacy commissioner says the complaint focuses on a tool introduced by Facebook last month. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Since finishing Terry Fox's cross-Canada run, former Order of Canada recipient has led a troubled life. Scan this code for the story.

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Officials fear for remaining whooping cranes
The world's last remaining natural flock of endangered whooping cranes will probably see another die-off, Texas wildlife managers said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Embattled Obama pledges more jobs

An embattled U.S. President Barack Obama vowed in his first State of the Union address last night to make job growth his topmost priority, as he looked to reignite his stalling presidency.

Speaking before a politician-packed House of Representatives chamber and a television audience of millions, Obama urged lawmakers to come together around new stimulus spending and short-term economic relief.

Defiant despite stinging setbacks, he said he would not abandon ambitious plans for longer-term fixes to health care, energy, education and more.

"Change has not come fast enough," Obama said.

He compared the United States to other nations: "Washington has been telling us to wait for decades, even as the problems have grown worse. Meanwhile, China's not waiting to revamp its economy. Germany's not waiting. India's not waiting."

Obama looked to use the high-profile speech to change America's conversation from how his presidency is troubled — over the messy health-care debate, a limping economy and the missteps that led to Christmas Day's barely averted terrorist attack — to how he is seizing the reins on the economic worries foremost on Americans' minds.

He spoke to a nation gloomy over double-digit unemployment and federal deficits soaring to a record $1.4 trillion, and to fellow Democrats dispirited about the fallen standing of a president they hoped would carry them through this fall's midterm congressional elections. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

A family friend reports John Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, have separated in the aftermath of a sex scandal. Scan this code for the story.

What's next for Haiti's children?

Haiti Crisis

GREGORY BULL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of displaced children are in Port-au-Prince.

PORT-AU-PRINCE In a quake-smashed city where hundreds of thousands go to sleep hungry and hurting in sordid street camps, eight-year-old Benoit Wodson has at least a bunk bed, food and friends to play with on a lawn beneath the mango trees.

The boy with the big grin and the big scar across his nose wants something more, though: "Can we go look for my mom? Can we go look for my parents?" he asked a worker yesterday at the orphanage where he's been brought.

The smallest survivors of Haiti's catastrophic earthquake are growing into one of the biggest problems in its aftermath. Countless thousands of children are scattered among Port-au-Prince's makeshift camps of homeless and many have nobody to care for them, aid workers say, leaving them without protection against disease, child predators and other risks.

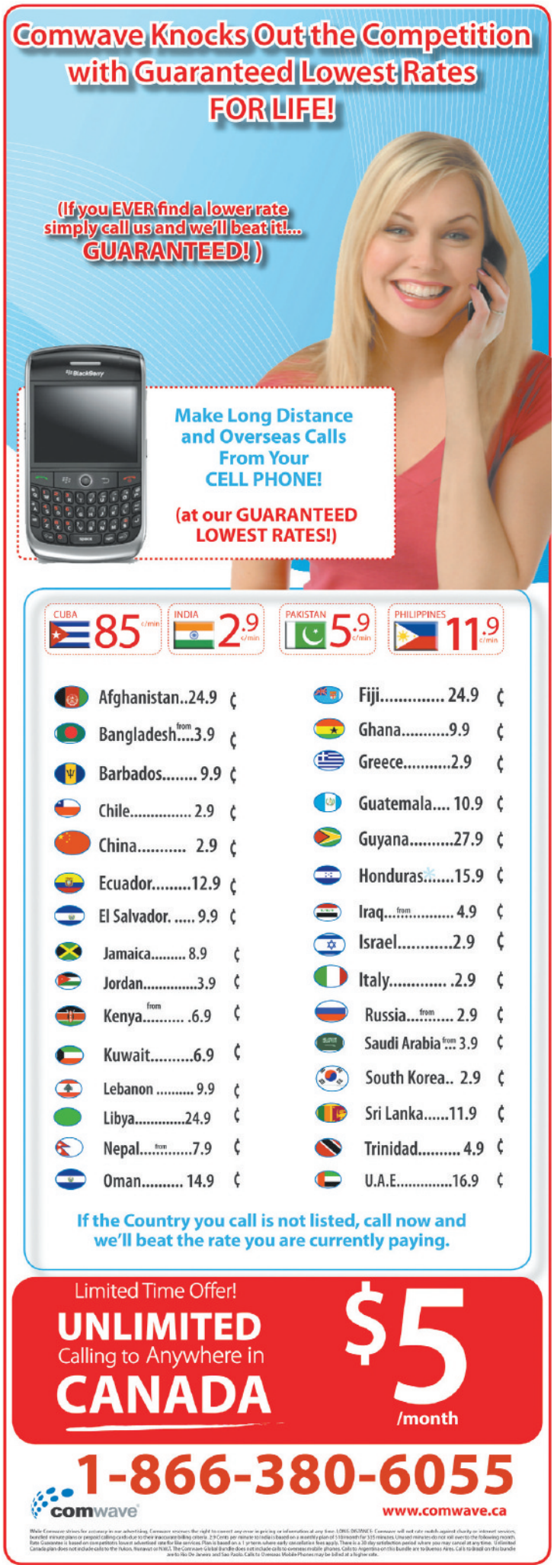
Some young Haitians are even being released from hospitals with no one to care for them. There just aren't enough beds.

UNICEF, Save the Children and the Red Cross have begun registering at-risk children and sending some to orphanages such as l'Escale — the name means "in transit" — where they can be temporarily sheltered, said Bo Viktor Nylund, a senior UNICEF adviser for child protection. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN An eastern Afghan tribe has signed a pact to keep the Taliban out of their lands, pledging to burn down the houses of those who shelter insurgents and force them to pay fines as high as $20,000. U.S. military officials yesterday welcomed the decision by the Shinwari tribe with a pledge of $1 million US and $200,000 in job programs. But they acknowledged that the tribe was uniquely positioned to defy the Taliban with its sizable militia and a history of unity against outsiders. Tribal leaders said the agreement was borne as much out of frustration with the Afghan government as the desire to keep out militants.

LEBANON International ships scanned Lebanon's coast for the black boxes and wreckage of an Ethiopian Airlines jet yesterday as DNA tests helped identify several victims, including two children whose remains were pulled from the sea. The plane went down early Monday just minutes after takeoff from Beirut in a storm. All 90 people on board were feared dead, but only some bodies have been found. Three more victims — two of them toddlers — also have been identified. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Teen who beat mother to death with hammer gets 16 to life

A girl who acknowledged beating her adoptive mother to death with a claw hammer when she was 14 has been given 16 years to life in state prison. Sixteen-year-old Heather Marie D'Aoust was sentenced yesterday in Superior Court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marriage before gay rights?

Preserving institution should come first: Family values leader

The founder of a family values think-tank testified yesterday that the rights of same-sex couples should come second to preserving the cherished social institution of marriage, as a trial challenging states' gay marriage bans was winding down.

David Blankenhorn, president of the New York-based Institute for American Values, said under cross-examination there are many valid reasons for allowing gays to wed, but the considerations are outweighed by the likely damage it would cause the already weakened state of heterosexual unions.

"I do believe it is almost certainly true that gay and lesbian couples and their children would benefit from having gay marriage." David Blankenhorn

He acknowledged, however, that allowing gays to wed would have positive consequences for same-sex couples and society, such as scoring "a victory for the worthy ideas of tolerance and inclusion," reducing anti-gay prejudice and hate crimes, and creating a higher standard of living for same-sex couples.

"I do believe it is almost certainly true that gay and lesbian couples and their children would benefit from having gay marriage," he said.

Blankenhorn was expected to be the last witness to testify in the federal trial exploring whether states violate the U.S. Constitution by denying gays the right to marry.

Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn R. Walker has said he wants to take several weeks to review all the evidence before hearing closing arguments.

Blankenhorn's testimony was almost certain to be cited by lawyers for the two gay couples suing to overturn the ban prompted by voter-approved Proposition 8 in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Researchers prep for study on 'scientific whaling'

SCIENCE Scientists from Australia and New Zealand are to set out on a whale research expedition to the Antarctic on Monday in an effort to disprove Japan's argument that whales must be killed to be studied.

The results of the six-week expedition are central to the whaling debate because Japan is allowed to kill whales provided it's for research. Still, no matter what the outcome, both sides acknowledge it will likely do little to change Japan's support for whaling.

"You can always come up with some question that will require an animal to be killed for something or other," said Nick Gales, the expedition's chief scientist and leader of the Australian Antarctic Division's Australian Marine Mammal Center. "But the question is whether that is a critical issue for the management and conservation of whales."

Anti-whaling

- Last year, several anti-whaling nations came together to form the Southern Ocean Research Partnership, an effort to promote non-lethal whale research in the hopes of eventually seeking an IWC ban on whaling for scientific study.

Japan is permitted to hunt whales in Antarctica under what it says is a scientific program allowed by the International Whaling Commission, despite a 1986 ban on commercial whaling. Japan sends a fleet to the Antarctic each year to hunt hundreds of minke whales, which are not endangered. Whale meat not used for study is sold as food in Japan, which critics say is the real reason for the hunts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia sees dramatic drop in racial violence: Rights group

TENSIONS Racially motivated violence in Russia dropped sharply in 2009 due to a more vigorous effort by police and a shift in tactics by extremist groups, a human rights group said yesterday

The Moscow-based group Sova, which monitors hate crimes in Russia, said 71 people were killed and 333 wounded in racist attacks last year, down from 110 killed and 487 wounded in 2008.

Galina Kozhevnikova, deputy head of Sova, called it the first significant drop in such attacks since the group began collating statistics in 2004.

The findings appear to vindicate government claims it is trying to combat racist violence, although they appear to contradict a statement by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin this week that the number of racist crimes decreased twofold last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Targeted groups

- As in previous years, most of the victims in 2009 were dark-skinned, non-Slavic migrant labourers from former Soviet republics in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Tourists lacking shelter, food after Machu Picchu mudslide

EMERGENCY Tourists visiting Peru's famed Machu Picchu citadel said yesterday they lack enough food, water and shelter and are at the mercy of price-gougers three days after mudslides trapped them in a nearby village.

The visitors complained restaurants were inflating their prices, and many have slept in Machu Picchu Pueblo's train station or in the central plaza after they ran out of money or hostels ran out of space.

"It's chaos. We don't have food, we don't have water, we don't have blankets, we can't communicate and the police lack an evacuation plan to put us at ease," Argentine tourist Alicia Casas told Lima's Canal N TV station.

$3.50 Bottles of water are selling for $3.50 in the isolated region — five times the typical price.

A thick cloud clover was keeping helicopters from flying to the village yesterday, cabinet chief Javier Velasquez told reporters in the capital, disrupting plans to evacuate 800 tourists. Choppers dropped off food and water and ferried out 475 people on Tuesday.

Authorities say 1,400 tourists remain stranded since Sunday's mudslides damaged sections of the railway to the city of Cuzco THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow **Keep fishin'**

MIKHAIL METZEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man fishes, braving temperatures below -20 C on the ice of the Khimki reservoir in northwest Moscow yesterday. Experts said this month was the coldest in Moscow in sixty years.

Beijing **A huge hit**

VINCENT THIAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spectators sit in front of a poster for director James Cameron's sci-fi epic Avatar at a theatre in Beijing yesterday. China is urging theatre operators to make sure at least two-thirds of the films they show are domestic after the Hollywood blockbuster became the highest-grossing film in the country's history.

Bangladesh executes five men for 1975 coup killing

DHAKA Bangladesh executed five former soldiers yesterday for killing the country's independence leader in a 1975 military coup, authorities said.

The men were hanged early Thursday inside Dhaka Central Jail, prison official Brig.-Gen. Mohammad Ashraful Islam Khan said.

They were hanged one after another, and the executions took only 30 minutes, private TV station ATN Bangla said.

Hours before their executions, the men were allowed to meet with their family members inside the jail amid tight security, the station reported.

Witnesses said roads around the jail in central Dhaka were closed to traffic hours before the executions.

The Aug. 15, 1975 military coup culminated in the killing of Bangladesh's leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who led Bangladesh's independence war against Pakistan in 1971. Before independence, Bangladesh was part of Pakistan.

Rahman went on to become the new country's first leader. But he and most of his family and close aides were gunned down at his Dhaka residence during the coup.

The coup leaders were given indemnity by subsequent military rulers, and they were only put on trial when Rahman's daughter, Sheikh Hasina, became prime minister in 1996. Hasina and her younger sister, Rehana, survived the coup because they were touring Europe at the time. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SPACE NASA has set an early February launch date for space shuttle Endeavour. Senior managers decided yesterday to proceed toward a Feb. 7 launch date for Endeavour. It will be a pre-dawn liftoff at 4:39 a.m. Endeavour will carry up a new room and observation deck for the International Space Station, the last of the major U.S. components. The six-person crew will hook up the chamber in a series of spacewalks. Some of the ammonia coolant lines for the chamber failed tests earlier this month, so engineers scrambled to fashion new hoses out of old hardware. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Reserve to keep rates at record low
The U.S. Federal Reserve has decided to hold interest rates at a record low and pledged to keep them there for an "extended period" to nurture the economic recovery and lower high unemployment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.92¢	US $5.274	US $73.67	11,344.11
US .20¢	US 21.1¢	US $1.04	17.08

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Apple CEO Steve Jobs presents the iPad in San Francisco, yesterday. The iPad has a 24.6-centimetre touch screen, is 1.3 centimetres thick, weighs 680 grams and comes with up to 64 gigabytes of flash memory storage, as well as Bluetooth technology.

Apple Inc. releases iPad

Apple Inc. will sell the newly unveiled tablet-style iPad starting at $499 US, a price tag far below the $1,000 that some analysts were expecting.

The iPad, which is larger in size but similar in design to Apple's popular iPhone, was billed by CEO Steve Jobs yesterday as "so much more intimate than a laptop and so much more capable than a smart phone."

The highly-anticipated gadget has a 24.6-centimetre touch screen, is 1.3 centimetres thick, weighs 680 grams and comes with 16, 32 or 64 gigabytes of flash memory storage. The basic iPad models will cost $499 US — about $530 at yesterday's exchange rate — $599 and $699, depending on the storage size.

All models have Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity built in. Jobs said the device has a battery that lasts 10 hours and can sit for a month on standby without needing a charge.

Apple will also sell a version with pay-as-you-go data plans from AT&T in the U.S.

Two tiers of data plan will be available without contracts: $14.99 per month for 250 megabytes of data and $29.99 for unlimited data usage.

Those 3G models will cost more — $629, $729 and $829, depending on the amount of memory. The Wi-Fi only version will be available worldwide in March, and the 3G version in April. International cellular data details have not yet been announced.

Apple had kept its "latest creation" tightly under wraps until yesterday's unveiling, though many analysts had correctly speculated that it would be a one-piece tablet computer with a big touch screen.

The CEO demonstrated how the iPad is used for surfing the web with Apple's Safari browser. Jobs, 54, a pancreatic cancer survivor who got a liver transplant last year, looked thin as he introduced the highly anticipated gadget, though he seemed to have more energy than at Apple's last event in September. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tablets

- Tablet computers have existed for a decade, with little success. Jobs acknowledged Apple will have to work to convince consumers who already have smartphones and laptops that they need this gadget.

Business in brief

RECALL The faulty gas pedal involved in a massive recall and sales suspension of eight popular Toyota models in North America was built in Ontario. The supplier is Indiana-based CTS Corp. and the problem part was manufactured at its plant just west of Toronto. Toyota Motor Corp. also recalled an additional 1.9 million vehicles in the U.S. yesterday after floor mat problems.

LABOUR A new report from an executive search firm says the number of women in top executive jobs at the largest publicly traded companies in Canada has stalled. Rosenzweig & Company says in a statement yesterday that the economic downturn has likely contributed to the finding that fewer than seven per cent of the most senior corporate offices are occupied by women, compared to 7.2 per cent last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife
What is 'kaizen' and how can Toyota get it back after a massive recall over faulty gas pedals? Scan this code for the full story.

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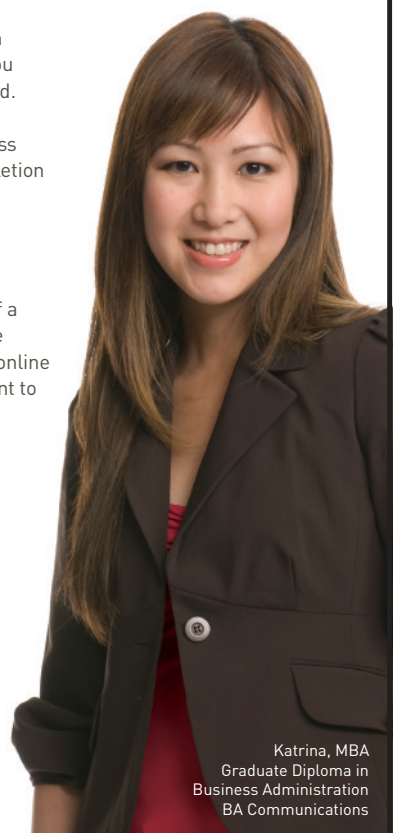

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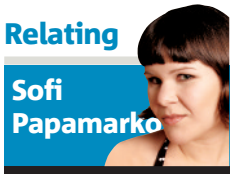
Comment

Facebook just one big ego boost

Relating



Sofi Papamarko

metronews.ca/papamarko

I need to quit Facebook before it gives me the brain of a child star.

Let me explain.

I recently posted a flattering profile photo that a friend took of me. Within a few minutes, the comments came flooding in. "Luminous!" one friend wrote. "Stunning!" insisted another. "Behold the ADORABLE," offered an old school chum. Real-time Sofi beamed, basking in this onslaught of cyber compliments.

Now, I am not "stunning." Not by any stretch of the imagination. That said, I am more than OK with my looks, but would place them in the "average to mildly foxy" range. What my lovely Facebook friends and acquaintances were doing, whether they meant to or not, was acting as a chorus of Yes Men.

Yes Men are the managers, the proteges and the hangers-on of celebrities (not that I am a celebrity — hear me out). Yes Men never say "No!" or "Wrong!" or "Bad!" The celebrity's every whim is satisfied. Every opinion (no matter how ignorant or flat-out crazy) is validated. This is why former child stars are, for the most part, certifiable messes; their versions of reality are tragically skewed.

When you leave a flattering comment on a friend's Facebook profile, you are stroking their ego, celebrity-style. This can be a good thing. It strengthens the bonds of your friendship and makes the recipient feel loved, appreciated and/or validated. But after months and years of Facebook compliments, of gold stars, of LIKES THIS ... we may start to lose touch with reality ourselves.

The reality is this: Not everything you do is awesome.

Sorry to be the one to break it to you.

Presumably, everyone on Facebook is a friend or fond acquaintance. Meaning that most of your interactions will be positive. So here's a wacky thought: We should start adding enemies and acrimonious exes to Facebook! That way they can drop the odd, "My new boyfriend/girlfriend is way hotter and smarter than you. Also, why do you update your status every five minutes? Shut your virtual pie-hole already!"

Sometimes a heavy dose of perspective can be good.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

World leaders mostly silent about FGM

GlobalView

Mona Eltahawy

metronews.ca/globalview

Imagine if every year three million boys had their penises cut off. Sound outrageous?

Well, every year three million girls have parts or all of their clitorises cut off in a procedure known as female genital mutilation (FGM). The clitoris has double the nerve endings that a penis has so my analogy to chopping off little boys' organs isn't too far off.

There are four types of FGM, ranging from the most "minor" to the most severe, known as infibulation, which involves removal of parts of the external genitalia followed by stitching together of what remains.

And yet the world is mostly silent about the mutilation carried out on girls from infancy to about the age of 15 in at least 28 countries, mostly in Africa and the Middle East. Some immigrants have taken the practice to communities throughout the world.

FGM has no health benefits. Doctors say it causes lasting psychological trauma, extreme pain, chronic infections, bleeding, abscesses, urinary tract infections and infertility.

As you read this, British activist Julia Lalla-Maharajh will be at the World Economic Forum in Davos to shake the suits and wallets there into paying more attention to FGM. Her video appeal won the Davos Debates 2010 on YouTube.

It's important to remember FGM is not exclusive to one religion or social class. It is older than Christianity and Islam. And as recent as the 1950s, removal of the clitoris was prescribed in western Europe and the U.S. in response to, among other things, hysteria, epilepsy and lesbianism.

The international community must speak out and pour more support into campaigns that have worked to end FGM in some communities.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Tell us your views by email to vancouverletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @vancouvermetro

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Warner to announce decision on future

The agent for Kurt Warner says the Arizona Cardinals quarterback will hold a news conference tomorrow to announce whether he will retire from the game. Mark Bartelstein said yesterday the announcement will be made at the Cardinals training facility in Tempe. Bartelstein declined to reveal Warner's decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Danton scores in debut

Former NHL player Mike Danton, left, scored a goal in his first hockey game in almost six years last night. The 29-year-old forward made his CIS hockey debut with the Saint Mary's Huskies during a 4-1 defeat to the Acadia Axemen. Danton's NHL career ended abruptly when he was convicted in April 2004 in a murder-for-hire plot in the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver's Darcy Hordichuck, left, and Ryan Rypien, second from right, fight with St. Louis' BJ Crombeen, second from left, and Erik Johnson during last night's action at GM Place.

Canucks win 6th straight

NHL RESULT

Blues 2 Canucks 3

Mason Raymond scored two goals and an assist and Ryan Kesler added three helpers as the Vancouver Canucks beat the St. Louis Blues 3-2 yesterday.

Raymond and Kesler assisted on Christian Ehrhoff's winning power-play goal.

Ehrhoff's shot from the side boards deflected off St. Louis defenceman Barrett Jackman and snuck between Conklin's pad and the post.

The goal came 32 seconds after Paul Kariya was penalized for slashing Henrik Sedin.

The Canucks (33-18-2) posted a season-high sixth-straight victory in their final home game before a 14-game road trip surrounding the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Raymond and Kesler helped pick up the scoring slack as the Blues (23-22-8) held Vancouver's top line of Henrik and Daniel Sedin and Alex Burrows off the scoresheet.

Burrows' 12-game points streak, the third-longest in the NHL this season, came to an end while both Sedins saw five-game point streaks terminate.

Raymond has three goals in four games after being blanked in 10 straight.

Keith Tkachuk and T.J. Oshie replied for the Blues.

Vancouver outshot the Blues 34-27 but struggled to score against Blues goaltender Ty Conklin, who recorded 31 saves.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arenas, Crittenton done for season

NBA Washington Wizards teammates Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton were suspended without pay for the remainder of the season yesterday by NBA commissioner David Stern, who said guns in the workplace "will not be tolerated."

Gilbert Arenas

Stern delivered the punishment after meeting with Arenas, turning his indefinite suspension into a suspension without pay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Andre Dawson is headed to Hall of Fame as a Montreal Expo, but says he'd rather be inducted as a Chicago Cub. Scan this code for the story.

Saints may be 'America's team', but that's fine with the Colts

NFL With the New Orleans Saints in their first Super Bowl, memories of Hurricane Katrina still lingering, and close ties between the team and the city's rebuilding effort, they are this year's sentimental favourite.

The rival Indianapolis Colts understand.

They just want to play the role of spoiler next week.

"There's a reason America is pulling for New Orleans, and why wouldn't they? They've been through a lot," said Colts safety Antoine Bethea.

"Sports tends to pull people together, so it's commendable for New Orleans to be, as I guess you'd say, America's team right now. But at the same time, we're going to go out there as the Indianapolis Colts and play ball."

The reach of New Orleans' fans goes all the way to the highest levels of the White House.

"You know, I think both teams are terrific," President Barack Obama told ABC News. "I guess I am rooting a little bit for the Saints as the underdog, partly just because when I think about what's happened in New Orleans over the last several years and how much that team means to them. You know, I'm pretty sympathetic."

The Colts know they're still the favourite in at least one state, Indiana, and one city, Las Vegas.

Bookmakers have installed them as a 5-point favourite, prompting Obama and others to hope for an upset on Feb. 7 in Miami. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams beats Li Na to reach fifth Australian Open final

TENNIS Serena Williams has advanced to a fifth Australian Open final and ended any chance of an all-Chinese championship match in the season's first major.

Defending champion Williams wasted four match points before finishing off a 7-6 (4), 7-6 (1) semifinal win with an ace against Li Na earlier today, a day after her sister Venus lost to the Chinese player in the quarter-finals.

Serena Williams has a 100 per cent conversion rate so far in finals at Melbourne Park, winning the title every time she's played for the championship since beating Venus here in 2003.

The winning sequence has been every odd-numbered year so far.

"I had so many match points and I blew it and I knew I couldn't mess up my serve because she never gives up," Williams said.

"She's a real, real amazing fighter."

Zheng Jie had another chance to become the first Chinese player to reach a Grand Slam singles final when she took on seven-time Grand Slam winner Justine Henin in the later semifinal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nestor wins

- Canadian Daniel Nestor and Serbian partner Nenad Zimonjic reached their fourth Grand Slam men's doubles final today defeating Croatia's Ivo Karlovic and Serbia's Dusan Vemic 6-4, 6-4 in semifinal action at the Australian Open.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

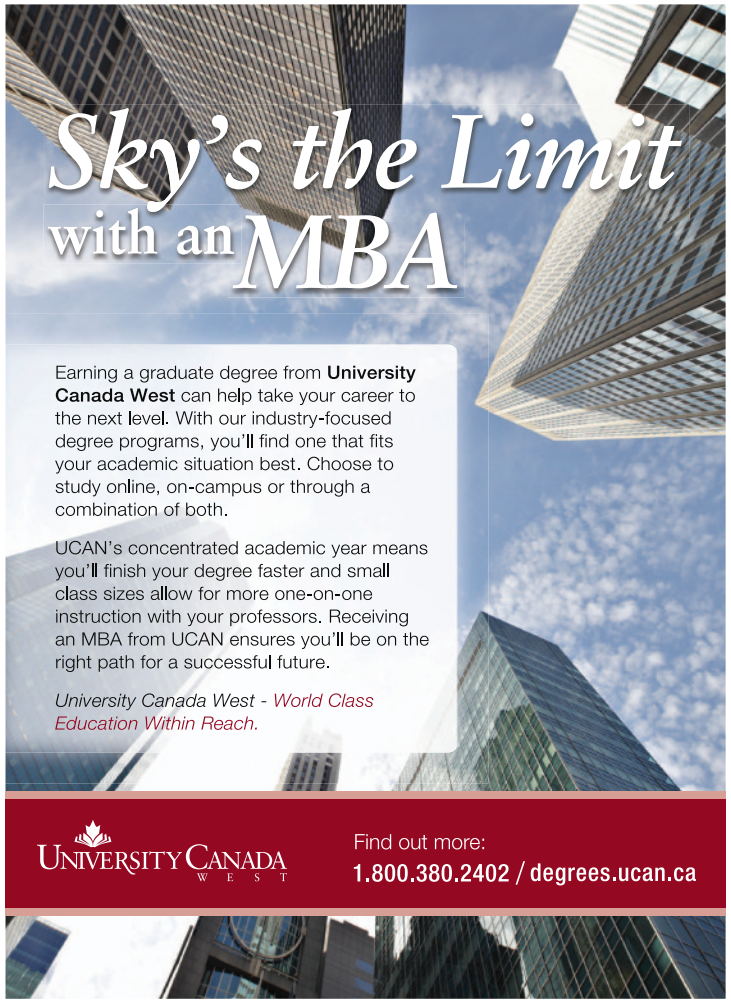
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

VANCOUVER 3 St. Louis 2
Dallas 4 Calgary 3 (SO)
Tampa Bay 3 Montreal 0
Carolina 5 N.Y. Rangers 1
Buffalo 2 New Jersey 1 (SO)
Washington 5 Anaheim 1
Minnesota 5 Detroit 2

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 111 Miami 103
L.A. Lakers 118 Indiana 96
Cleveland 109 Minnesota 95
Memphis 99 Detroit 93
New Jersey 103 L.A. Clippers 87
Milwaukee 91 Philadelphia 88
Chicago 96 Oklahoma City 86
Denver 97 Houston 92
San Antonio 105 Atlanta 90
Utah 106 Portland 95
New Orleans 123 Golden State 110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NBA's rookie-sophomore game an international affair

Forwards Jonas Jerebko and Omri Casspi, the first NBA players from Sweden and Israel respectively, were selected for the annual rookie-sophomore game next month as part of all-star festivities. The game, pitting rookies against second-year players, will be played Feb. 12 in Dallas ahead of the NBA All-Star game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Golf needs him to come back:' Mickelson on Tiger Woods

GOLF The biggest crowd at Torrey Pines yesterday formed a semicircle around the 10th tee to watch Phil Mickelson, who suddenly is more than a hometown hero.

He is looked upon now to deliver star power in the absence of Tiger Woods.

Typically, Mickelson relishes just about any challenge that involves Woods. Just not this one.

"Nobody will be able to … fill the shoes," Mickelson said.

Speaking for the first time since Woods' spectacular and sordid downfall led to an indefinite break, Mickelson didn't bother waiting for the first question at his press conference before the Farmers Insurance Open.

He offered a pre-emptive strike filled with compassion and perspective, even if it was short on detail.

"The game of golf needs him to come back," Mickelson said.

"It's important for him to come back and be a part of the sport. But right now, he's got a lot more important things going on in his life.

"Amy and I are good friends with both Tiger and Elin, and we care deeply about how this turns out."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Limited communication

- Mickelson did confirm that he has tried to reach out to his longtime rival, Woods, and had "limited communication."
- "With the family — not necessarily saying with who in the family," Mickelson said.

Rooney's goal gives Man U win over rivals

Defending champion Manchester United overcame archrival Manchester City to reach the League Cup final, but was toppled from the English Premier League summit by Chelsea yesterday.

Wayne Rooney's 21st goal of the season in stoppage time prevented the Manchester derby going into extra time, and clinched a 3-1 victory at Old Trafford to send United through 4-3 on aggregate.

"There was a lot of spice and at the end there was a special kind of celebration," United manager Alex Ferguson said.

"We stayed patient and looked a threat when we stepped it up.

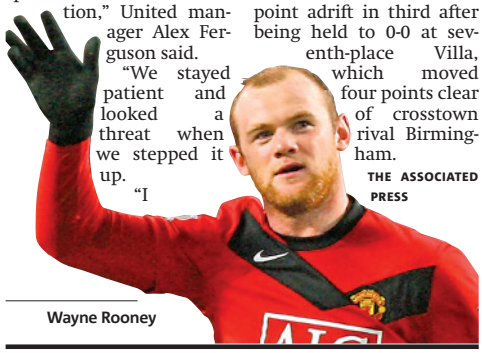
"I thought Wayne Rooney produced a world-class performance tonight, he played better than he did on Saturday when he scored four goals (against Hull). Phenomenal."

United will play Aston Villa in the Feb. 28 final. Big-spending City has not contested a final since 1981.

In London, Frank Lampard scored twice as Chelsea cruised to a 3-0 victory over Birmingham to go a point ahead of United in the title race.

Arsenal was a further point adrift in third after being held to 0-0 at seventh-place Villa, which moved four points clear of crosstown rival Birmingham.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Wayne Rooney

I Need An Angel

I was recently diagnosed with a very rare cancer that affects only 1 in 300,000 people. And I don't have very many options available to me. In fact, I only have one…I need to undergo a liver transplant within the next 2-3 months.

Under the Canadian Medical Transplant guidelines, most cancer patients may have to wait up to 2 years. Sadly, I would not be able to sustain that long. However, if I can provide the surgeons with a "live" donor, I can undergo the transplant sooner than later. And this is what myself and my family live in hope of.

Essentially, a "live" donor is a willing candidate that would donate a portion, or lobe, of their liver. Although this is a serious procedure, the outcome for the donor is that they would typically recover within 3-4 weeks and their liver will regenerate or grow back to its normal size in as little as 6 weeks after the operation. As a result, I would be given a second lease on life.

I am hoping that a healthy adult between the ages of 18-60 with O type blood is going to volunteer for this life-saving surgery.

It's against the law for me to offer anyone money for this procedure. So, I ask at the mercy of all, that there's an angel out there with a heart of gold.

Serious candidates can get more information at the following email address:

BeRicksAngel@gmail.com

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Unofficial ads slammed
The U.S. Olympic Committee attacked non-official advertising tied to next month's Vancouver Olympics, claiming it damages the companies that struck official deals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Veteran bobsledder has untested crew

Bobsledder Pierre Lueders will drive for two more medals next month at the Vancouver Olympics, but he'll do it with two rookies in his sled.

Lueders will drive with Edmonton Eskimos running back Jesse Lumsden, track star Neville Wright — both from Edmonton — and pusher Justin Kripps of Summerland, B.C., behind him.

The veteran pilot headlines the list of 18 athletes who were officially named to Canada's bobsled team for the Games yesterday. While Lueders has yet to win a medal on the World Cup circuit this season, he's confident he can make it back to the Olympic podium.

On the web
Learn more about Pierre Lueders in an interactive profile at **metronews.ca/sports**

"The way I look at it we're in the playoffs, and how often have you seen teams written off that were not expected to do anything in any sport and suddenly in a big event they're right there," Lueders said. "I don't worry about it too much. My entire objective for the season was to be prepared for the Olympics, and the way it looks right now, that's where we're headed."

Vancouver will be the fifth Olympics for the 39-year-old Lueders. The Edmonton native won gold in Nagano in 1998 and silver in Turin in 2006, both in the two-man events. He also has 88 career medals on the World Cup circuit.

Lumsden and Wright have about a year's experience, while Kripps has four years in the sled, but is headed to his first Olympics.

Lumsden has been with Lueders on the two-man sled for half this World Cup season and is set to do so again in Vancouver.

"For everything that's happened over the last three years of my life, to have this opportunity to represent my country is the greatest feeling I've had in sports," Lumsden said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALEX GRIMM/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Pilot Pierre Lueders, front, and team members Justin Kripps, Jesse Lumsden and Neville Wright compete in their first run of the four-man bobsled competition during the FIBT Bob & Skeleton World Cup Dec. 13, 2009, in Winterberg, Germany.

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RateSupermarket.ca
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Metro Homes

1940s style

This Chancellor Serve Bowl captures the clean, understated style of the 1940s. Perfect for pasta, salads or popcorn, this bowl is sand-cast of aluminum and polished by hand for a rich luster. See, potterybarn.ca. JENNIFER BILL/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

5-year variable mortgage rates
PROVIDED BY RATESUPERMARKET.CA

BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
2.25%	2.25%	2.25%	3.50%	2.05%	2.25%	2.25%	2.25%	1.95%

Get the **dinner party** started!

JENNIFER BILL
for Metro Canada

Fine food, fab friends and fun finishing touches are the ingredients to a successful dinner party.

Give your social evening its own style by paying attention to the small details. Just as important as ensuring the food is tasty and the bar fully stocked, a fashionably fixed-up home will enable guests to feel welcome and special. Personalize their experience with placeholders; use fruit or flowers for added creativity.

"I use white china and accessorize in flowers and linen," said Virginie Martocq, interior decorator and home editor at Chatelaine. "Dim lighting for me is key and that is complemented by candlelight. I always choose white candles — never scented as you don't want the food and the candle to compete."

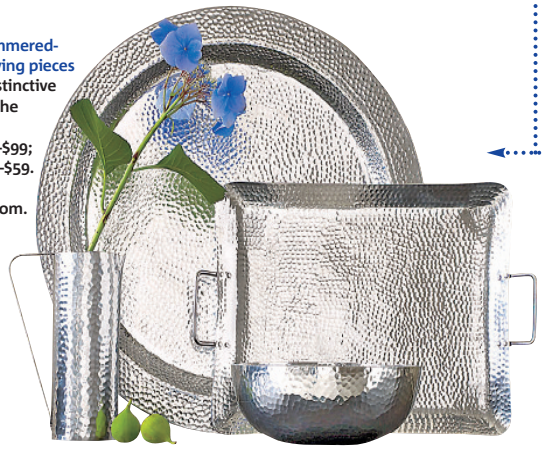
Place a candle in a square vase surrounded by stemless flowers. For flowers Martocq suggests hyacinths, wintergreens, big-bloom hydrangeas, or tulips in one color, either cut into little glasses or potted in a wine bucket. Keep centerpieces low so conversation across the table is unimpeded.

"The easiest way to get a good look is to grab a whole bunch of big blooms and put them all over the house in various vases," Martocq said.

Don't worry about the house being perfect and orderly, Martocq said.

"I think dimming the lights can hide a lot of sins."

Silverware



Exotic hammered-metal serving pieces bring a distinctive gleam to the tabletop. Square $5-$99; round $12-$59. West Elm, westelm.com.

A trio of mouthblown glass beads hovers within each of these graceful silver-plated metal and glass Dew Drop Coffee Spoons. Set of six, $78. Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Wood-ware

These artful Acacia Entertaining pieces are crafted of richly grained acacia wood with a bleached finish. West Elm, $19-$59, westelm.com.

Handcarved olivewood twines with earthy grace on this olivewood Braai Serving Set, with lush wood grain that will only improve with age. Handmade in Kenya. Anthropologie, $18, anthropologie.com.

Beast-ware

Seemingly plucked from a fairytale dining table, it wouldn't be surprising if this Italian, claw-footed Beast's Feast Tureen skitters over to your place when you'd like another helping. Anthropologie, $148, anthropologie.com.

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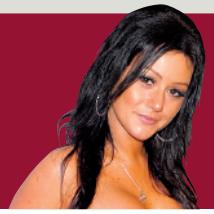
Hockey-inspired collection

Dsquared2's fall 2010 menswear runway show held last week in Milan paid tribute to their Canadian roots with hockey-inspired designs on models wearing makeup that showed them battered, bruised and bloodied. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Style



Clothing for the Shore?

Jenni Farley, better known as "JWoww" on the hit MTV show Jersey Shore, is capitalizing on her new-found fame with a collection of skimpy made-to-order party tops. The cleavage-baring garments can be seen on her website (jwoww.com). However, the reality star recently Tweeted to fans that web sales have been discontintued and that her clothing line is coming out "late spring/early summer."

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

All about Alice

New film adaptation inspires fashion collections

JORDANA DIVON
for Metro Canada

The designers have spoken: Alice is this season's It Girl.

From haute couture, to delicate Swarovski pendants, and even her own OPI nail polish line, everyone is trying to get a piece of Ms. Wonderland before her new Disney-backed movie hits the big screen in March.

Banking on director Tim Burton's reputation for visual genius, Disney asked a number of world-class designers to create original pieces based on the film's bizarrely gothic, yet colourfully whimsical look.

And what a response they got. With names like Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen and Christopher Kane all gearing up to release their own Alice-inspired items next month, it's clear that something about Alice has hit a chord amongst the creative set.

Hollywood fashion designer Sue Wong, who created more than 10 new dresses based on the film, claims it was her childhood love of Disney, coupled with an admiration for Burton's cinematic style that led to her participation.

"There is always a fantasy element to (Burton's) work, informed by a bit of dark, gothic humor, and his work is highly visual, often with a period twist," says Wong. "As I do a lot of period adaptations in my design work, and the period for Alice is set in the Victorian era, it was not a stretch to incorporate Victorian elements and details."

Wong's collection, which features sexy, vampish looks inspired by the Red Queen alongside more girlish, innocent designs based on Alice's character, range from $329 US to $609 and can be found on the designer's website, suewong.com.

Not to be excluded from the tea party, luxury crystal brand Swarovski has also released a special Alice in Wonderland collection called "Underland." The line's colourful jewelry pieces are a departure from the company's more simple, traditional fare.

Highlights include a pink flower garden pendant with a crystal drop ($105), a gold White Rabbit charm necklace ($160), and a Red Queen of Hearts ring ($120).

Diana Mazzuca, Swarovski's public relations and communications manager, says the collection sets a precedent for the brand.

"We've always had a piece that has been featured in movies, like our iconic Nirvana pendant in Sex and the City, but this is the first time Swarovski has actually developed an entire collection around a film," says Mazzuca.

Whether Burton has a critical and box office hit remains to be seen, but based on the caliber of creative talent his film has attracted, this Alice has undoubtedly become one of Disney's most stylish muses.

A window to Wonderland

- Some of the other designers who have jumped down the rabbit hole are Ann Demeulemeester, Martin Margiela, Bernhard Willhelm, and Manish Arora, whose one-off Alice dresses will be featured in the window of Parisian department store Printemps throughout the month of February.

JORDANA DIVON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Above: Smashing Time necklace made with multiple ceramic crockery charms. Part of the Tom Binns for Walt Disney signature line, ranging from $1,000 US to $2,000.

Designer Sue Wong found a muse in Alice and the Red Queen for her latest Wonderland-inspired collection. Left: A sexy, red cocktail dress fit for a queen ($399 US). Top left: A girlish, yet elegant babydoll dress ($399 US). Both Available online at suewong.com.

Far left: Swarovski's limited edition Alice in Wonderland collection debuts the last week of February. Above: Red Queen Heart and Cards ring ($120) and earrings ($100). Available at Swarovski stores or online at swarovski.com.

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Recommend your Mortgage Broker by Friday and you could WIN A HP MINI 10.1" NETBOOK!
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Alicia Keys engaged
Alicia Keys had a lot to smile about on her 29th birthday on Monday — an engagement ring from her producer beau, Swizz Beatz. A pal says Beatz proposed with a seven-carat sparkler right before her big day. **USMAGAZINE.COM**

Entertainment

The nominees
Anne Hathaway will announce this year's Oscar nominations. The star will join Academy President Tom Sherak to announce the names on Tuesday.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Basia Bulat bares her heart

Basia **Bulat**

Album: Heart of My Own
Label: Secret City/Universal
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

THERE'S NO DOUBT Basia Bulat's Polaris Music Prize nomination helped her get more gigs at home and abroad, but who needs awards after creating a disc this good? The Toronto-born singer songwriter's followup to the critically acclaimed Oh, My Darling, is a big step in the right direction. While her tunes are still rooted in folk pop, the arrangements are louder, more complex, yet still intimate. It's all pretty good, but If Only You, a rollicking country tune, complete with horns and keys, will easily be many fans' favourite.

Bryan Borzykowski /for Metro Canada

Corinne **Bailey Rae**

Album: The Sea
Label: Virgin/EMI
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕½

DON'T BUY THIS CD looking for an upbeat hit like Put Your Records On. You're not going to find it here. What you will find is an uncompromising artist with a sweet, jazzy lilt to her voice that's warm enough to melt an iceberg. Rae puts aside all thoughts of entering the pop side of contemporary R&B, choosing to push ahead into more sophisticated territories occupied by respected jazz and soul singers like Liz Wright and Madeleine Peyroux. Rae lost her husband, saxophonist Jason Rae, to a drug overdose in 2008. Many of the 11 tracks on The Sea are coated with that grief, but she handles it delicately with style and grace on standout tracks like Are You Here, I'd Do It All Again and I Would Like Call It Beauty.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Heart of My Own is the followup to Basia Bulat's Polaris-nominated album Oh, My Darling.

Woodhands

Album: Remorsecapade
Label: Paper Bag
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

WOODHANDS MAY ONLY be a duo, but Dan Werb and Paul Banwatt have the energy of an over-capacity warehouse party. And that kind of location would best suit the uninhibited spirit of this album. Their songs work like a dual-action formula — they can evoke both the need for a dance-off and a heart-to-heart. Pockets sings about holding hands but sweats from the burst of disco punk, Sluts calls on erratic rhythms to address promiscuity as a unisex issue and Dissembler softens up for some smitten boy-girl electro pop. When The Party Is Over may signal an end to the party, but like a musical Viagra, Remorsecapade leaves you keyed up and ready to go all over again.

Cam Lindsay /for Metro Canada

AlbumReviews
music@metronews.ca

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Worthington in talks for Dracula role

Sam Worthington is in talks to bring Dracula back from the dead. The Aussie hunk is the frontrunner to land the lead in Alex Proyas' Dracula Year Zero. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Fiona eyes Grammy R&B win

Five years ago, Melanie Fiona flew to Los Angeles, determined to make her musical dreams come true.

The Toronto native had the right sound — great range and a distinctive voice, equally adept at expressing vulnerability and strength — and the right look.

All she needed to do was change everything.

"I met a lot of labels, executives and producers," Fiona told The Canadian Press.

"They'd say, 'We love the way she looks, we love the way she sings.' But I knew that the minute I worked with them or would have signed with them, they would have tried to change me into someone else completely different.

"That was something that I didn't want to do."

Catch the Grammy Awards this Sunday

As it turns out, her stubbornness paid off.

The past year has brought the 26-year-old the sort of chart success and industry respect she was willing to wait for, culminating in a nomination at Sunday's 52nd Grammy Awards.

She's up for best female R&B vocal performance for her heart-rending torch song, It Kills Me.

The Grammy nod was vindication, to say the least.

"It's like the best news I've ever received," Fiona says, her voice cracking with enthusiasm.

"Oh my gosh, I instantly had flashbacks of just singing as a little girl into my hairbrush in front of the mirror. I went directly there. Could I even have imagined singing around my house and loving to sing would have me in this position now, one day?

"It's just unbelievable."

It certainly would've seemed that way at many points during the past few years, as time tested Fiona's resolve.

Fiona was born Melanie Hallim, the daughter of Guyanese immigrants.

She had been active in the industry since 2002, when she was briefly involved with Toronto R&B girl group X-Quisite (she left before their first album was released, though she earned songwriting credits). THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Canadian Melanie Fiona is up for the best female R&B performance for her song, It Kills Me.

Benefit

- Mary J. Blige and Andrea Bocelli will perform Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water during a fundraising segment for Haiti relief at this year's Grammy Awards.

primetime 1/28/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		CannaBiz (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (CC)		CTV News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Supernatural "Swap Meat" (N)		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		The Office	The Office	90210 "Unmasked" (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N) (CC)	FlashForward (CC)		Fringe "The Bishop Revival"		(:01) Private Practice (CC)		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Community	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural "Swap Meat" (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Live for the Moment (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Community	Parks-Recreat	The Office	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Supernanny "Tsironis Family"		Dine With Me	Love It-List It	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	This House	Love It-List It
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Deep End (N) (CC)		Grey's Anatomy "Invasion"		(:01) Private Practice (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Pie in the Sky ★★ (1995) Josh Charles, Anne Heche.				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Face-Roberta	Steves Europe	Doc Martin "On the Edge"		Poirot (CC)		Bonekickers (CC)		Soundstage
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		Fringe "The Bishop Revival"		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	33 PBS	Sherlock Holmes		Red Green	Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		This Old Hse.	Hometime
	296	654	34 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	The Office	Name Is Earl	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Street Court	Cold Files
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural "Swap Meat" (N)		KTLA 5 News at 10 (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According/Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury Paternity-test results.	
	297	652	37 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	According/Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show W/Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	29 NW	The Nature of Things (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		The Nature of Things (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MMA Conn	College Basketball UCLA at Oregon. (Live)				Canucks TV	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	That's Hockey	SportsCentre	Off the Record	Boxing Juan Diaz vs. Paulie Malignaggi. (Taped) (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Destination Truth (CC)		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Ghost Hunters
	410	403	54 SCR	Champ Fight	NBA Basketball Dallas Mavericks at Phoenix Suns. (Subject to Blackout) (Live)					Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks Out	Jacked!	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	(6:00) Fútbol Español		Gol a Gol	Ftb Today	Gol TV News	Bundesliga	Ftb Today	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	iCarly (CC)	Fries That?	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Bram Stoker's Dracula ★★★ (1992) (CC)		
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Zigby Hiccups.	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	(:35) Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Frontiers of Construction		New York: A Documentary Film (CC) (DVS)				C. D. Hoy: Portraits		Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	UnStable (N)	Star Crossed	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According/Jim
	570	580	24 MM	(6:30) Muchmusic Countdown		MuchOnDemand (CC)		Pimp My Ride	My Own	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Spotlight
	600	564	29 H&G	House	House	Holmes Inspection (CC)		House-Bryan	Real Renos	Holmes on Homes (CC)		House
	615	520	31 A&E	Manhunters: Fugitive Task		Manhunters	Manhunters	(:01) The First 48 (CC)		(:01) The First 48 (CC)		Manhunters
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:00) TNA iMPACT! (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		MANswers	GameTrailers	MANswers	MANswers	Mysteries
	521	560	34 TLC	BBQ Pitmasters (N) (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		BBQ Pit
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Ogre (2008, Fantasy) John Schneider, Ryan Kennedy. (CC)				Cra$h & Burn Insurance scam.		Law Order
	620	523	40 BVO	(6:00) Wilby Wonderful ★★		Law & Order "Switch" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		The Opposite of Sex ★★★ (1998) (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	Re-Vamped (CC)		ET Canada	What	Real Housewives NYC		Real Housewives OC		Runway
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		Journey to the Edge of the Universe A tour of the cosmos.				MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancient Discoveries (CC)		Ancestors	Ancestors	Nostradamus Effect (CC)		Blow Down
	627	528	45 SPC	(6:00) Caprica Lifelike avatar.		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1 "2010" (CC)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Lost "Follow the Leader"	
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight (N)		Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	52 FN	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Diner, Drive-In	Unwrapped	Extreme Cuisine, Jeff Corwin		Ace of Cakes
	-	-	53 AMC	(5:00) Alien	AMC Storymakers (CC)		Predator ★★★ (1987) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Carl Weathers.					Alien 3 ★★★
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Martin	Martin	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) Before Tomorrow (2008)		Hunger (2008) Michael Fassbender. Premiere.			(:45) Chaos Theory ★★ (2007) (CC)			Towelhead
	581	566	101 MTV	Taking the Stage (CC)		Taking, Stage	After	The Real World "D.C." (CC)		Taking the Stage (CC)		Taking, Stage
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) Cuba ★★★ (1979) Sean Connery. (CC)		Recreat. Eden		The Gospel Road ★★ (1973) Robert Elfstrom. (CC)				Interwood
	-	-	105 MUL	Sewing Maid	Immortal	Vancouver	Shaktimaan	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Connections	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

Journey to the Edge of the Universe

From the title, it sounds like a sci-fi movie, but this two-hour special is more science than fiction. Thousands of images, most of them taken by the Hubble telescope, are the basis for vivid computer re-creations of astronomical phenomena all the way back to the Big Bang. If this doesn't make your eyes pop, consult an ophthalomologist immediately. 5 PM on DIS

The Office

When David Wallace (Andy Buckley) invites Michael (Steve Carell) to the Dunder Mifflin shareholder meeting in New York, Michael brings Oscar, Dwight and Andy (Oscar Nunez, Rainn Wilson, Ed Helms) along to witness what he is certain will be a personal triumph. Back in Scranton, office co-manager Jim (John Krasinksi) tries to get slacker Ryan (B.J. Novak) to get some work done. Jenna Fischer and Mindy Kaling also star in "Shareholder Meeting." 6 PM on STR

J-Lo targets Harris in comedy

TV Jennifer Lopez will play a self-help expert on an episode of the CBS comedy How I Met Your Mother in March.

The actress-singer portrays Anita Appleby, a no-nonsense author who tries to "train" men into better behaviour in relationships.

Jennifer Lopez's target is Neil Patrick Harris' playboy-bachelor character, Barney: Appleby makes it her mission to break him.

Cage mansion sells for $5M

FINANCES A real estate broker says a Las Vegas mansion that belonged to Nicolas Cage before it was foreclosed sold for nearly $5 million US its first day on the market. Records show Cage owes millions of dollars to the IRS in unpaid taxes.

Lowman says the sale was expected to close yesterday.

The Oscar-winning actor has said he's had to sell numerous assets because of his finances. Cage sued his former business manager in October for $20 million, saying the man's advice led him toward ruin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Year of the Tiger celebration
Feb. 13 marks the beginning of the Year of the Tiger. Celebrate at Wild Rice (117 West Pender St) during the first two weeks of the Chinese New Year with the four-course Year of the Tiger menu for $40. wildricevancouver.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Urban Foodie

A Hub of casual activity

Browns Social House jumps ship on chain, re-opens anew

ANYA LEVYKH
anya.levykh@gmail.com

Hub
1165 Mainland St.
Vancouver
604-696-0400
hubrestaurant.ca

Rating: ⊕⊕
Dinner & drinks for 2: $80

Signature dish: Fish and chips
Signature drink: Russell Pale Ale

Halibut fish and chips at Hub.

The past year has seen a number of fine dining restaurants rebooting as lower-priced and more casual ventures (Maenam, Refuel, et al), but until last month, I had never heard of a casual chain location rebooting as a still-more-casual independent restaurant.

The owner of the Yaletown location of Browns Social House suddenly decided to jump the chain ship and re-opened virtually overnight as Hub Restaurant and Lounge, a place that offers a "back to basics" menu in a room of "casual sophistication." Hmm, this didn't sound that much different from Browns, but I was curious — how much more "casual" could a casual operation get?

The menu seems to follow the tried-and-true concept of trying to jazz up simple dishes with expensive ingredients.

Lobster wings ($13), for instance. Fairly tasty, although I felt the side of melted butter was overkill.

Mac and cheese ($15) was heavily loaded up with cheese, which almost completely overpowered the flavour of the star ingredient — crab, in this case — this despite the sizable amount of the latter in the dish.

Halibut and chips ($16) was a less interesting dish.

The fish, while moist and fairly firm, lacked flavour.

The coleslaw, on the other hand, was rather nice, with a hint of black pepper livening things up.

The chocolate-chip pazookie ($8), however, was just pure yum.

It felt like a child's version of clafoutis and caused a bit of a spoon-skirmish to get the last bite.

This restaurant won't cause any waves, but it will probably do nicely for those looking to watch some sports, down a beer, and fuel up at the same time.

On the web

- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.

Dining out

VALENTINE'S DAY DINING Le Gavroche (1616 Alberni St.) is offering a special five-course Valentine's Day menu for $85 ($125 with optional wine pairings). Options include duck confit wrapped in wild boar bacon, braised short rib, roasted chestnut soup, sablefish and scallops and rose petal crème brulée. Call 604-685-3924.

MORE HEART DAY DEALS Refuel (1944 West 4 Ave.) is offering a three- or four-course Valentine's menus from Feb. 12 to 14. Options for our courses will include lemon risotto, crispy Humboldt squid, roasted bone marrow, fresh local oysters and peanut-chocolate parfait. To book a reservation call 604-288.7905. METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

OLYMPIC HOURS Cobre Nuevo Latino (cobrerestaurant.com) and Deacon's Corner (deaconscorner.ca) will both be open for lunch and dinner (as well as breakfast at Deacon's Corner) from Feb. 13 to 28. Visit the restaurant websites for details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

New releases

Meritage is becoming an increasingly popular blend in B.C. and Innisikillin's 2006 Dark Horse Meritage is a good one to try. This one combines 78 per cent Merlot, 19 per cent Cabernet Franc and three per cent Cabernet Sauvignon for a nose of cherry and chocolate over an oaky-vanilla palate infused with plum.

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A wee lassie or a wee laddie?
James McAvoy is set to become a father for the first time with his actress wife Anne-Marie Duff, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Scottish star, 30, met Duff in 2003 while they starred in hit British TV show Shameless together. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

OMAR EPPS has very specific needs, **JAMIE KENNEDY** doesn't want dogs in the restaurant, **SANDRA BERNHARD** doesn't want you to worry about her tennis game, and **STEPHEN FRY** is full of mixed emotions.

@omarepps Craving a good ole candied apple... #random

@jamiekennedy Why do they allow dog bowls in restaurants so the dog can eat with u???? i dont have candlelit dinners in rovers doghouse

@SandraBernhard i played a very hard game of tennis last night and lost i feel a little bruised today but i'll be fine in doubles.

@stephenfry Oh gracious. I'm in a big emotional puddle. Simultaneously as happy as can be but also oddly disposed to burst into tears. I'm an old silly

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Passing the torch

SO NO ONE WILL NOTICE HIS RECEDING HAIRLINE Jude Law is thanking his lucky stars for Robert Pattinson, since he and other young stars are starting to get all the attention.

"I feel great relief because finally others are entering the limelight," Law tells OK! Magazine.

"Men like Robert Pattinson must now play the Adonis. For me it was always a restraint, a restriction.

"My goal was always to be recognized as a good actor, but no one was interested in that simply because society just wants to warm toward your appearance.

"This is the great blemish of society."

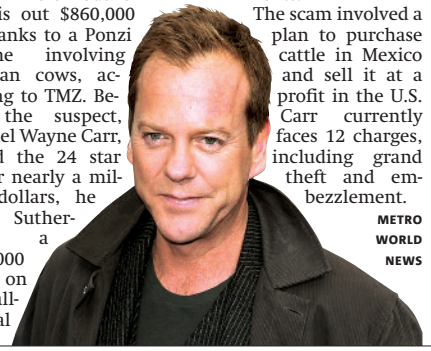
METRO WORLD NEWS

Cash cow wrangler

HE'LL BE WAITING TIL THE COWS COME HOME. YEAH, I SAID IT Kiefer Sutherland is out $860,000 US thanks to a Ponzi scheme involving Mexican cows, according to TMZ. Before the suspect, Michael Wayne Carr, ripped the 24 star off for nearly a million dollars, he made Sutherland a $130,000 profit on a smaller deal to gain his confidence, according to court documents.

The scam involved a plan to purchase cattle in Mexico and sell it at a profit in the U.S. Carr currently faces 12 charges, including grand theft and embezzlement.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Mom, I love you

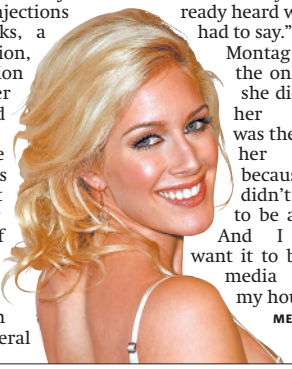
BUT YOU'RE HIDEOUS. HERE'S SOME BOTOX The gift that keeps on giving? Heidi Montag — who came under fire for undergoing 10 plastic surgery operations in one day — says not only was her mother supportive of her drastic operation, but she plans on giving her a "mommy makeover" for Mother's Day, us-magazine.com reports.

Reports surfaced that Montag's mother, Darlene Egelhoff, was furious at her daughter for secretly going under the knife. Montag, 23, had breast implants, a brow lift, botox in her forehead, a nose job revision, fat injections in her cheeks, a chin reduction, neck liposuction and had her ears pinned back.

But The Hills star tells Nightline that her mother was aware of her plan. "I've had this conversation with her several times. So I think she knew," she says. "I already heard what she had to say."

Montag says the only thing she didn't tell her mother was the date of her surgery because "I didn't want it to be a circus. And I didn't want it to be crazy media outside my house."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



K-Fed fed the pain

HIT ME, BABY, ONE MORE TIME ... WITH A BUCKET OF DELICIOUS KFC AND A CAN OF COKE For Kevin Federline, the very public struggles came with a private pain, as his 2006 divorce from Britney Spears triggered depression and overeating, people.com reports.

"Once you get depressed, you don't really feel like doing anything," Federline, 31, tells Access Hollywood. "You're kind of discouraged about yourself and then the weight gain too, or that makes me more depressed ... I mean, it's a combination of all of those things."

The difference for Federline was that his troubles played out on a public stage.

"Everybody knows what happened with me and Brit," he says. "I'm not going to say that's the total cause of it but, I mean, just not being happy with myself was probably the main part of my depression."

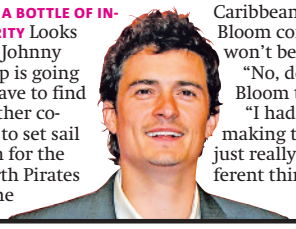
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Singing Yo No No

AND A BOTTLE OF INTEGRITY Looks like Johnny Depp is going to have to find another co-star to set sail with for the fourth Pirates of the Caribbean film, as Orlando Bloom confirms that he won't be onboard.

"No, definitely not," Bloom tells MTV News. "I had a great time making those movies. I just really want to do different things."

METRO WORLD NEWS



This is what happens when you live together in sin

IT GETS ALL CONFUSING. MARRIAGE HAS A MUCH BETTER TRACK RECORD. YOU SHOULD TRY THAT The rumours about Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie breaking up are all because of a little misunderstanding, at least according to one source, who tells Gatecrasher that the power couple did in fact visit a Los Angeles attorney early this month, but not to dissolve their partnership.

Instead, Pitt and Jolie were working to sort out their shared $330 million fortune. "They aren't married, so they need to protect their children and property in case there's a rift in the future," the source says.

"People hear legal papers, and assume it means a divorce. "They're just making sure their ducks are in a row."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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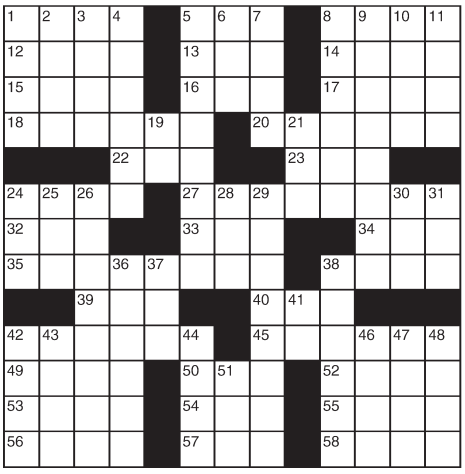
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Santa's paperwork
5 Scenery chewer
8 Ostriches' relatives
12 Bloodhound's clue
13 Prima donna's problem
14 Year-end celebration
15 12-Across detector
16 Part of UCLA
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Classroom spinners
20 Low bow
22 Inventor Whitney
23 Profit
24 Athlete
27 Bit of marginalia
32 Black bird
33 Japanese pond carp
34 Raw rock
35 Pool variety
38 "Do — others ..."
39 Latin 101 word
40 Family
42 Some calisthenics
45 King who abdicated
49 Wife of Osiris
50 "— the fields we go"
52 Bellow
53 Arctic sheet
54 Larry's pal
55 Opposed
56 Be inclined (to)
57 Conclusion
58 Incubator sound

DOWN

1 Protracted
2 "American —"
3 Mediocre
4 Man with all the answers?
5 Finland's capital
6 Way back when
7 Rolling stone's lack
8 Grommet
9 Chromosomal change
10 Arm bone
11 Line of fashion?
19 Urban transport, maybe
21 Literary collection
24 Discordance
25 John's Yoko
26 Summons
28 Tic-tac-toe win
29 Toyed (with)
30 Scrap
31 Ultramodernist
36 Entertained
37 Upper surface
38 Open, as a gift
41 Freudian concept
42 Winnow
43 Gilligan's home
44 A handful
46 Blue-ribbon
47 Assess
48 Plumbing problem
51 A billion years

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	3				6		
			4	9				8
2					6			4
		6	9		2		1	
	8			6			9	
	2		3		1	5		
5			2					6
8				1	7			
		7				3	2	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	3	1	6	5	7	4	8	9
9	5	4	8	1	3	7	6	2
8	7	6	2	4	9	5	1	3
3	6	7	4	9	1	8	2	5
1	4	2	5	6	8	9	3	7
5	8	9	7	3	2	1	4	6
6	9	5	3	8	4	2	7	1
7	1	8	9	2	6	3	5	4
4	2	3	1	7	5	6	9	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Fast Jambalaya

Submitted byTammy Laforet, Windsor, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:

2 cheddar smokey sausages (can substitute with a dozen shrimp)
5 strips fried bacon (optional)
1 large ripe diced tomato
1/2 cup onion
2 tbsp minced garlic
1/4 diced pepper
1/2 cup of any other veggies (broccoli, carrots, spinach)
1 cup Uncle Ben's parmesan or garlic rice
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp butter for taste

METHOD:

1. Cut tomatoes, onions, sausages, peppers and other veggetables into bite-sized pieces.
2. Saute all veggies in olive oil until they are medium soft.
3. Add garlic and sausages. (if using Shrimp, add later on)
4. When the suasages are cooked, add water required as per Uncle Ben's rice and bring to light boil.
5. Add rice stir and cover. Cook for 10-15 min per Uncle Ben's rice instructions, stirring occasionally. (Add Shrimp at this time.)
6. Chop up bacon pieces and add.
7. Serve when most liquid is absorbed. Leave some as a sauce to give the dish more taste.

SERVES 2-4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 20 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You seem to have got the wrong end of the stick where an affair of the heart is concerned and now you are beating yourself with it for being so stupid.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
It is not enough that you know what you can do, you must make sure that other people know it too. Put on a show today. You were born to be a star.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You want to know the truth, even if the truth is not to your liking. That's good because it would appear that someone is keeping something from you.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Take an hour or two out of today's busy schedule to make a note of all the things you have to be thankful for. It may take a while to acknowledge them all.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
The more people you have to deal with today the more emotional you will become and the more likely it is you will get annoyed with some of them.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If you rush into something today you may have to rush out again a few days hence when you realize you have got it totally wrong.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may find it difficult to confide in people today, perhaps because you don't know what you want.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
This may be a time of new beginnings but you don't have to start something new. Save the new stuff for later.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You can be happy or you can be sad — it is entirely up to you. It's more likely to be the former over the next 24 hours if you make an effort to be sociable.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will go from delight to despair and back again today. To say that your feelings are a bit unsteady is not saying nearly enough.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may not get along with the people you meet today but if you are smart you will pay attention to what they say.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
No matter how quick off the mark you think you may be there will always be those whose reactions are quicker.

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